From: Scott Clawson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 7:20pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

Any settlement with Microsoft *must* contain provisions to curb Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior. I personally favor a solution that would break up the company into at least two companies; one providing operating systems and the other providing applications such as Microsoft Office.

Here is a recent example of why I feel this way: Yesterday I ordered a computer from Dell. My *only* choice when ordering one of their standard configurations would be to get Microsoft Office. I could *not* order a computer without Microsoft Office, except perhaps by calling Dell on the phone and insisting.

In the last 8-10 years, every computer I've owned has come with a copy of Microsoft Word. Is it any wonder that companies like Word Perfect and Lotus have essentially disappeared? Why would I go buy a copy of Word Perfect when I've already been forced to buy a copy of Word?

Microsoft's monopoly on operating systems gives them the ability to force hardware manufacturers like Dell to bundle Microsoft Office with every PC they sell.

I repeat, that any settlement with Microsoft must contain provisions to stop this kind of anti-competitive behavior.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my opinion.

Scott Clawson Datafest Technologies, Inc.